

MEMORIAL

OF

WILLIAM P. ROSS, W. P. ADAIR, AND C. N. VANN,

IN FAVOR OF

The establishment of a separate court for the Indian Territory.

JUNE 3, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States :

GENTLEMEN: We desire respectfully to call your attention to the fact that a separate court for the Indian Territory, as recommended by the President, is a matter of the gravest moment, and we hope, in the hurry of business, will not escape your attention. The recent difficulties in our country, and many others, result from thrusting us in the jurisdiction of an aggressive and unfriendly population. The whole plan of our treaties of 1866 contemplates the erection of such a separate court. The present court is expensive and extravagant; interferes with the execution of justice, and leads directly to political troubles. A bill is already pending (House bill 2204) which meets our views of such a measure. If nothing further can be done, however, the creation of a district court for the Indian Territory, with the same and no other jurisdiction than that now lawfully held over the said Indian Territory by the United States district court for the western district of Arkansas, would be an advantage to the public interests and security. It ought to provide that the lawful residents of said Indian Territory should be jurors, for which they are as well qualified as other persons in that region, and be guarded, so as to secure our rights guaranteed by treaty.

Entreating your prompt attention, we have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

WILL. P. ROSS,
W. P. ADAIR,
C. N. VANN,
Cherokee Delegation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 3, 1872.